

# TRACER EXPERIENCE AND CHALLENGES FOR TRANSFORMATION IN THE UPPER SILESIA REGION

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# UPPER SILESIA REGION:

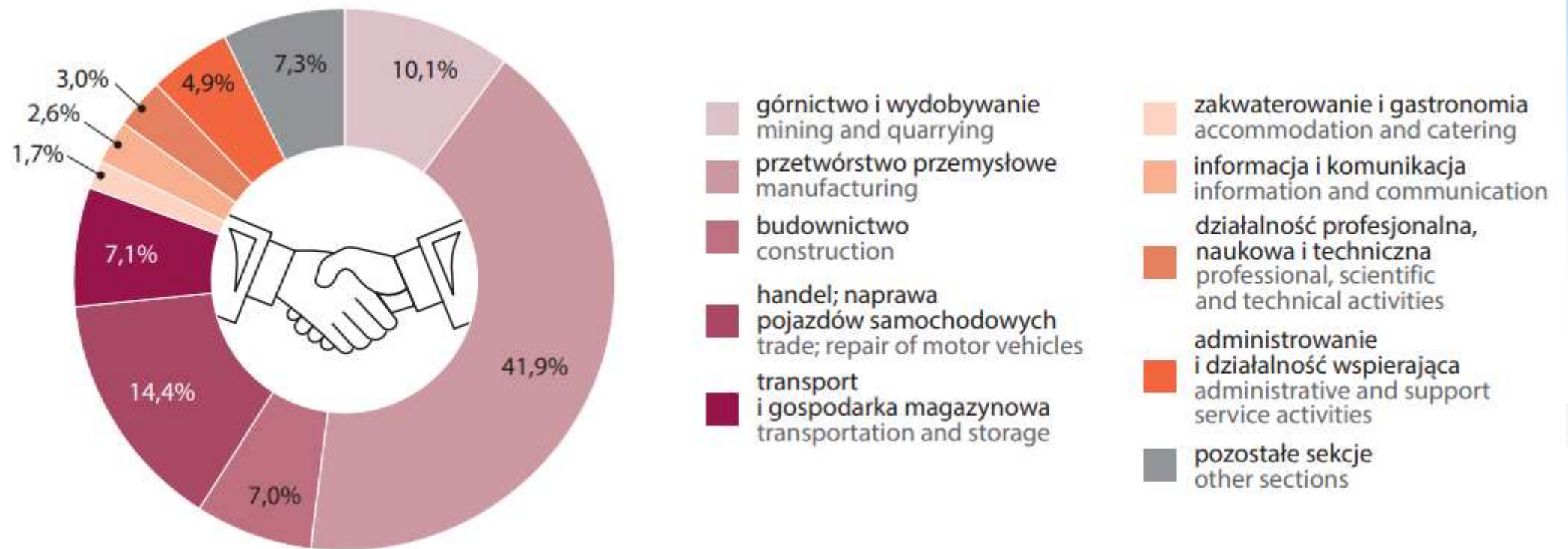
- Area: 12 333,09 km<sup>2</sup>
- Population: ca. 4,492,000
- Economically active population: 1,898,000
- GRP per capita: 14200 EUR  
*(GDP of Poland: 13900 EUR)*
- Creates ca. 12% of Polish GDP



# UPPER SILESIA REGION:

- Labour market:

STRUCTURE OF EMPLOYED PERSONS IN THE ENTERPRISE SECTOR<sup>a</sup> BY SECTIONS IN 2020  
As of 31st December



# COAL MINING IN UPPER SILESIA:

- 19 active mines
- Ca. 73,000 employees directly in mines and 3-4 times more in cooperating businesses
- High costs of coal extraction
- Decreasing hard coal production
- Strong competition of imported coal
- Financial difficulties



# GOVERNMENTAL PLANS

- The agreement between the government and mining unions was signed in September 2020. It regulates, among other things, the issues of mine closure.
- The transformation of the mining industry is to be spread over many years, and the underground miners are to be guaranteed work in the mines until retirement.
- The schedule for phase-out of individual mines is an attachment to the agreement.

# GOVERNMENTAL PLANS

- The first mine was decommissioned in 2021. Another one will be decommissioned in 2023, then in 2028, etc. until 2049.
- The agreement applies only to the mines of Polska Grupa Górnicza and Węglokoks.
- Until their final closure, the mines are to be subsidized by the state. At the beginning the subsidies will amount to PLN 1 billion annually, and then they will decrease as more plants are closed.
- The support plan must be agreed with European Commission.

# DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE SILESIAN VOIVODSHIP “SILESIA 2030” – GREEN SILESIA

## Vision of the Region:

The Silesian Voivodship will be a modern European region with a competitive economy resulting from a responsible transformation, providing its inhabitants with development opportunities and offering a high quality of life in a clean environment.



# DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE SILESIAN VOIVODSHIP “SILESIA 2030” – GREEN SILESIA

## Strategic goals:

- Silesia as a region of responsible economic transformation;
- Silesia as a resident-friendly region;
- Silesia as a region with a high-quality environment
- Silesia as an efficiently managed region





# RESPONSIBLE ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

Regional Innovation Strategy of Silesia 2030

Regionalna  
Strategia  
Innowacji



# REGIONAL INNOVATION STRATEGY OF SILESIA 2030

Smart specializations:

- energy
- medicine
- ICTs
- green economy
- emerging industries



# MAIN GOAL OF THE RIS

Smart Silesia – an innovative and intelligent economic transformation ensuring the competitive advantage of the region in the international arena



# SPECIFIC GOAL OF THE RIS SILESIA 2030

- To increase the capacity of regional innovators to generate and implement innovations and modern technological solutions
- To ensure inclusive digital transformation in the region's economy and society
- To support the competitiveness and successful transformation of regional innovators into national and international champions
- To develop competencies of employees and regional innovators for smart specialisations, digital transformation and innovative entrepreneurship

# IMPLEMENTATION OF RIS SILESIA 2030

## Flagship projects:

- Eco-innovations in the region;
- Silesian science and technology parks;
- Silesia – the top Polish technologies for medicine;
- A map of key regional research infrastructure;
- Testing social and technological innovations;
- Regional innovation vouchers;
- A programme for improving and changing professional qualifications to fit the needs of green energy

# RESUME

- Coal mining is important in the Upper Silesia Region but its relative importance has been decreasing gradually.
- Phase out of coal mines in the region is enavitable and will take place in the future.
- The pace of the coal mining phase out will not be swift



# RESUME

- Development strategies of the region do not assume leading role of coal mining and energy production as local specializations
- Silesia is going to remain an industrial region however the future industry should be highly specialized and innovative





THANK YOU!

